Note: The Education Report can be viewed online at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/news/report/

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In The News

Nominations for Premier's Teaching Awards Now Open

$1.5 Billion Seismic Mitigation Program

Neighbourhoods of Learning Map New Future for Schools

Hockey Players Welcome Students with Reading, Activity

Two B.C. Schools to Get $9.6M in Seismic Upgrades

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Links

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- StrongStart BC
- LearnNow BC
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- School District Visits

Message from Minister Shirley Bond

Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education

We are now one week into the 2008/09 school year, and there are many things to be excited about in the coming months. There are many new programs and projects in schools across B.C. this fall that will strengthen our education system and help make our students become the best-educated and most-literate in the country.

We've set mandatory daily physical activity requirements for all grades. We have also expanded the ban on junk food sales in all schools. B.C. is leading Canada with the most aggressive student health initiatives in the country.

To help young children prepare for school we are expanding the number of StrongStart BC Early Learning Centres. Currently, there are 86 Centres operating throughout the province. This year an additional 99 centres will open, and by 2010 there will be 400 centres across B.C.

The province is well on its way to becoming the healthiest, best-educated, and most-literate jurisdiction on the continent because of the incredible schools, students, staff and teachers we have in B.C.

First Day of School

To kick off the new school year, players from the Vancouver Giants and other Western Hockey League teams joined government representatives, students and teachers at Cascade Heights Elementary school in Vancouver to demonstrate the importance of reading and physical activity.

Minister Shirley Bond, wearing a jersey from her hometown WHL team the Prince George Cougars, joined members of the Western Hockey League and students at the Read to Succeed event at Cascade Heights Elementary in Burnaby on the first day of school.

HOT TOPIC

Three years ago, our government announced a $1.5-billion, 15-year commitment to seismically upgrade British Columbia public schools. We remain committed to that plan, easily the most comprehensive by any government in this province's history.

To date, we have finished upgrades at 25 schools. Work at 27 more is underway. Seismic upgrades at another 22 schools are ready to proceed to construction. We have invested nearly $400 million to date and we are making steady progress on our long-range plan to make B.C. schools safer.

Seismic safety is also a key component of our government's revitalization of school infrastructure. Each of the 67 new and replacement schools we have built since 2001 are modern, safe, seismically-sound buildings.

As well, every year the Province provides a total of $5 million to school districts in seismic-designated zones to complete non-structural seismic work. This includes work such as attaching cabinets to walls, covering some windows with protective film and securing lights.

Student safety is a top priority for our government.

Reading Corner

This month's book selection is "Miracle at Willowcreek". From her grandfather, Tess developed a love for sandhill cranes, who live in the marsh near her home. She soon learns the marsh will be developed into a golf course, ruining the homes of the cranes. When Tess and her friends encounter a woman who is passionate about protecting the environment, the struggle to protect the cranes turns into an adventure. This novel is for readers 12 and younger.

Miracle at Willowcreek Written by Annette LeBox